

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 244943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

1. PENNSYLVANIA'S AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KLINE IS SPONSORING A CONGRESS OF WORLD UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD TO BE CONVENED IN PHILADELPHIA IN JULY 1976. INITIAL PLANNING ENVISIONS ATTENDANCE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED DISTINGUISHED PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL, LITERARY AND OTHER LEADERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD FOR PURPOSE OF (A) FOSTERING WORLD-WIDE RECOGNITION OF UNITY OF MANKIND AND UNCLASSIFIED

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(B) HOPEFULLY ORGANIZING CONGRESS ON PERMANENT BASIS TO

MEET PERHAPS EVERY FIVE YEARS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. SPONSORS WILL PAY EXPENSES OF PARTICIPANTS.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONGRESS IS UNDER AUSPICES OF A NEW ORGANIZATION ENTITLED WORLD UNITED, INC., LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA. TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS, REV. GUY MERVEILLE AND REV. A. WILLIAM SABATINO, ARE THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS. PROJECT HAS ATTRACTED ASSISTANCE OF GAYLORD HARNWELL, PRESIDENT-EMERITUS OF UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; JOHN BUNTING, PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL CIVIC LEADER AND BANK PRESIDENT, AND NORMAN COUSINS AMONG OTHERS. PROJECT IS ESSENTIALLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL IN NATURE EVEN THOUGH SPONSORED BY PENNSYLVANIA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION. PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEND IN PERSONAL CAPACITY, NOT AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

3. REVS. MERVEILLE AND SABATINO HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS VISITED VARIOUS NATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST, EUROPE AND AFRICA TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND DEVELOP INTEREST IN CONGRESS. THEY PLAN VISITS IN LATIN AMERICA IN JANUARY, AND IN ASIA BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY AS FOLLOWS:

IRAN	FEBRUARY 13
AFGHANISTAN	FEBRUARY 17
PAKISTAN	FEBRUARY 21
INDIA	FEBRUARY 25
BANGLADESH	MARCH 8
BURMA	MARCH 12
THAILAND	MARCH 16
SINGAPORE	MARCH 24
VIET-NAM	MARCH 28
HONG KONG	APRIL 2
JAPAN	APRIL 13

POSTS WILL BE INFORMED FURTHER WHEN ITINERARY IS DEFINITE. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE TRAVELING IN SECULAR DRESS GIVEN NATURE OF ASSIGNMENT.

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4. ORGANIZERS HAVE INVITED COOPERATION OF DEPARTMENT AND POSTS IN SUGGESTING POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS FROM ASIA AND WILL MAIL PROSPECTUS REGARDING CONFERENCE TO PAO'S. PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE OF CALIBRE OF FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL U THANT; FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND HISTORIAN, ETIENNE GILSON; BRITISH POLITICAL LEADER, PHILIP NOEL-BAKER; SPANISH ROYAL ACADEMY MEMBER AND EDUCATOR, ANTONIO TOVAR; AUSTRIAN NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN

MEDICINE, KONRAD LORENZ; AMERICAN AUTHOR AND EDITOR, NORMAN COUSINS, ETC. DURING THEIR TOUR FATHER MERVEILLE WILL PERSONALLY VISIT AND INVITE THOSE SELECTED.

5. DEPARTMENT IS SUPPORTIVE OF BICENTENNIAL EFFORTS OF STATE COMMISSIONS PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO PROJECTS IN FURTHERANCE OF CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. WILL THEREFORE APPRECIATE HAVING SUGGESTIONS FROM POSTS BY CABLE BY EARLY JANUARY REGARDING POTENTIAL INVITEES. PLEASE INCLUDE MAILING ADDRESS SO ORGANIZERS CAN CORRESPOND IN ADVANCE OF VISIT. WILL ALSO APPRECIATE ANY COURTESIES POSTS MAY APPROPRIATELY EXTEND TO REVS. MERVEILLE AND SABATINO DURING TOUR. RUSH

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